

RIVERWAYS

Newsletter

Fall 2001

A Publication of the Massachusetts Riverways Programs

Department of Fisheries, Wildlife & Environmental Law Enforcement, David M. Peters, *Commissioner*

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Bob Durand, *Secretary* • Jane Swift, *Governor*

Taunton Heritage River Program

On September 4, 2001 Environmental Affairs Secretary Bob Durand and Senator Marc Pacheco announced the creation of a new initiative, the Heritage River Program, aimed at celebrating and building upon the rich heritage surrounding the rivers of the Commonwealth. The program complements and supports ongoing efforts to protect the ecological health of river systems by concentrating on historical, recreational and cultural assets of the Rivers of the Commonwealth. Begun as a partnership with the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental Management and the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement (DFWELE), the program has chosen the Taunton River for its pilot project.

The Heritage Rivers Program will expand the ongoing efforts of agencies, communities and local groups. The heart of the Heritage River Program will be on rivers as they flow through time, focusing on the changing uses of our rivers and the ever-changing relationships between rivers and people. This new initiative will promote the examination of downtown and hometown rivers as a force in reclaiming the character of a community and using the past to help build a strong and livable future.

The goals of the program are to

- Recognize the outstanding characteristics of rivers that allow them to be designated as a Massachusetts Heritage River;
- Raise awareness of natural, cultural and historical resources on rivers by promoting the past and current uses of rivers and river corridors;
- Foster alliances to bring people and groups with various interests to be stewards of heritage rivers—many of them in urban areas—and their history; and
- Bring in new constituencies, for example recreational users, eco-tourists and local historians who will enjoy and work to protect rivers.

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Reflections in the Taunton River of the historic mill in Weir Village in Taunton. The Taunton Heritage River Pilot brings historic, environmental, eco-tourism and recreational interests together on behalf of the river. Photo by Joan Kimball.

NEWS FLASH!!! RIVERWAYS GRANTS AVAILABLE SOON

The Department of Fisheries, Wildlife & Environmental Law Enforcement (DFWELE) is pleased to announce that the Riverways Programs will soon be soliciting applications for its FY2002 Riverways Small Grants and Riverways Urban Grants. Grants average between \$1,000 and \$10,000 for Small Grants and \$10,000 and \$15,000 for Urban Grants. The funding is used to further watershed, river and stream protection. Please watch our web site for more information or contact Patricia Sheppard, Riverways Program Manager, at (617) 626-1541 or e-mail at patricia.sheppard@state.ma.

Lake/Watershed Stewardship Program

In early September, as part of EOEA Secretary Bob Durand's Lake and Ponds Watershed Initiative, the Riverways Programs and the Department of Environmental Protection kicked off the pilot Lake/Watershed Stewardship Program. With funding from the 319 Nonpoint Source Program, the Lake/Watershed Stewardship Program is dedicated to involving citizens in lake watershed protection and creating partnerships to remediate lake/tributary/watershed problems.

Partners will provide training to help groups identify and remedy the root causes of lake and tributary water quality impairments leading to their failure to meet clean water standards. The program, adapted from the Adopt-A-Stream Shoreline Survey process, is based on the realization that local people know these watersheds best and that local decision-making is necessary for restoration to occur.

A Lake/Watershed Stewardship Coordinator will work directly with interested lake watersheds. Working out of the Riverways office, the coordinator will build local partnerships to provide stewardship to both the lakes and their tributaries. This new partnership program (1) complements EOEA Secretary Bob Durand's new Lake and Pond Watershed Initiative by bringing the Watershed Initiative approach to the lakes and lake tributaries to expand local and regional capacity for identifying, assessing and responding to a variety of ecological and/or human use problems; and (2) addresses the goals of the Clean Water Act, administered by DEP and EPA. The watershed approach will help foster partnerships between residents on lakes and tributary streams, town officials, watershed associations, lake associations, agencies, and the Water Watch Partnership.

After determining the selection process, the coordinator will provide technical assistance for up to ten lake watershed groups to assist them in collecting information and providing stewardship to remediate impaired water bodies. The program will utilize the new **DEP Watershed Survey Manual** and the new data sheets developed in cooperation with DEP, Riverways and other partners.

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Lake/Watershed Program, continued from page 1

This partnership program will be guided by a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of agency staff, nonprofit lake and pond organizations such as COLAP, LAPA West and Central, Massachusetts Water Watch Partnership, and the MA Watershed Coalition. Potential project participants will be nominated by the EOEALakes and Ponds Initiative, team leaders, volunteer lake/watershed groups and from the TMDL list from DEP. Outreach will be the first step for the new coordinator.

Other steps for this program include:

(1) *Local Planning*: Creation of local steering committees comprised of residents, lake and watershed associations, municipal officials, local businesses.

(2) *Education*: Technical experts will provide an overview of watershed ecology as well as general impacts to water bodies caused by nonpoint source pollution.

(3) *Watershed Survey*: Stakeholders will participate in training workshops to learn how to do a Watershed Survey, conduct the

survey on both the lake and tributaries, and prioritize problem areas with the apparent causes of nonpoint source pollution.

(4) *Action Plan*: Stakeholders will develop strategies to address the prioritized problems

(5) *Implementation*: The Lake Watershed Stewardship Coordinator will share information about funding and provide technical assistance to help carry out the identified actions.

(6) *Reporting*: Each group will prepare a report to be presented to municipal officials, libraries, residents, watershed teams, state agencies, and nonprofit groups to share their findings, priorities and recommendations.

The pilot is expected to last up to two years. During this time, at least three groups will be recruited to participate in a “train the trainer program” to ensure a continuation of the Lake Watershed Survey methods to benefit lakes, ponds, their tributaries and their watersheds throughout the Commonwealth. The Lake Watershed Stewardship Program promotes sustainable and lasting solutions that address root causes of water quality problems and that result in long-lasting benefits.

Taunton Heritage River Program, continued from pg. 1

Realizing that each watershed is unique, the pilot was created to meet the special characteristics of the Taunton River Watershed. The components of this program include:

(1) a small grants program, administered by the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) designed to promote work to restore or create recreational access, protect historic landscapes, promote environmental protection, and encourage eco-tourism.

(2) the appointment of a locally-based steering committee and a technical review committee

(3) the creation of a map and brochure that will show both residents and tourists the significant sites along the river

(4) the development of a logo/signage system based on a local design charette

(5) the establishment of criteria for future Massachusetts Heritage Rivers.

Partners speak about the Taunton Heritage Pilot:

Senator Marc Pacheco

“The Taunton Heritage River Program celebrates all the ways that the river is a significant part of local living. This program provides funding so dedicated associations who have been working to preserve the Taunton River can turn some of their ideas into reality. In the Taunton River Watershed, numerous groups have been working independently to promote its history, eco-tourism and recreation, as well as land, habitat and river protection. Its time that we celebrate our heritage by bringing these groups together to promote this beautiful and historic river.”

Marijoan Bull and Bill Napolitano of SRPEDD

“Having a grant program focused on the Taunton River will give local towns and groups the ability to implement some long-term planning. It is heartening to hear the enthusiastic responses of people—from the tourism field, historical field and other interests—who are planning to serve on the steering committee. It’s a great opportunity for the Taunton River.”

Bob Durand, Secretary EOEALakes

“As the author of the Rivers Protection Act when I served in the state Senate, I recognize that rivers are an important part of our history and our natural environment. When we support river-based activities, our communities reap all types of benefits—cleaner

water, habitat protection, outdoor recreation and cultural appreciation. By celebrating history and our natural environment, we are promoting Community Preservation, biodiversity and education.”

Peter Webber, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Management

“This new pilot program will support the river as well as the work of local residents, the new Wild and Scenic River Study, the DEM Heritage Landscape Survey and the Watershed Initiative by bringing in new partners and new interests.”

DEM’s Rich Thibideau, a prime mover behind the program

“It is clear that each of the agencies and local partners bring expertise and experiences to make the program richer.”

Commissioner Dave Peters (DFWELE)

“By the agencies joining forces with SRPEDD, the local steering committee, the towns and the grassroots groups—historical, recreational, tourism as well as the environmentally active groups—in the Taunton River Watershed, we have a dynamic and exciting new initiative, spearheaded by the Riverways Programs.”

The creation of this program, with leadership from Joan Kimball and Pat Sheppard, continues the vision of Maria Van Dusen, Riverways Coordinator 1991-2000. Working with Maria, the Riverways Programs came to see the 21st Century as a time to “build programs focusing on the importance of protected and restored rivers and communities.” Riverways believes that “now is an opportune time for communities to consider how they might best capitalize on residents and visitors’ interest in exploring the cultural history and natural heritage of areas. Since rivers are often a magnet for early settlement of an area and the carriers of a people’s history, they provide ideal opportunities to combine the natural, the recreational and the historical aspects of an area’s appeal to visitors.”

The Heritage River Program supports existing EOEALakes programs including: the Watershed Initiative, Community Preservation Initiative, the Biodiversity Initiative, Environmental Justice Program; DFWELE programs include Riverways’ Urban Rivers Program, Adopt-A-Stream Program, River Restore and Riverways Fishway Stewardship Program. DEM’s programs include its Heritage Parks, the DEM Heritage Landscape Inventory and DEM Greenway Program.

ACCESS IS EVEN EASIER WITH NEW PUBLIC ACCESS SITES

The Public Access Board (PAB), an agency of the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement, enables people who fish and use recreational boats, canoes and kayaks to access the waterways of Massachusetts. All PAB facilities are located on publicly owned land. Last winter Riverways announced the publication of the revised and updated PAB guide, *Public Access to the Waters of Massachusetts*, which contains over 200 locations around the Commonwealth from which to fish, canoe, sail or motor boat. (Copies of this book are available by calling the PAB at (617) 727-1843.) Since then, eight additional sites have been completed and added to the public access system, all of which were designed in-house by the engineers at the Public Access Board. At each site, the PAB worked with non-profits, municipalities and other state agencies to expand the opportunities for the public to enjoy our waterways.

Bungay River, Attleboro

The Bungay River Conservation Area in Attleboro has a newly constructed canoe launch that will be managed by the City. The site is located just outside the center of Attleboro, off Holden Street. The formal dedication of the River Conservation Area took place on August 28th at the public access site. Attleboro purchased the land for this project with funds from an Urban Self-Help Grant through the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Division of Conservation Services.

Nashua River, Groton

The Nashua River in Groton now boasts a prefabricated concrete pad ramp with room for cartop access for canoes and kayaks and small boat trailers. The Conservation Commission in Groton manages the facility. The site is located along Route 119 right where the highway crosses over the river.

Sudbury River, Saxonville

The Framingham Conservation Commission manages a new canoe access site on the Sudbury River in Saxonville, on Little Farms Road. The town has managed a second access site on the Sudbury River at Kelloggs Road for many years.

Charles River, Millis

The Millis Conservation Commission now manages a canoe and shore fishing area on the Charles River on Route 115. This spot is known locally because of the beauty of this stretch of river, and because below the parking area is a pool that serves as an excellent spot to fly fish for bass.

Scorton Creek, Sandwich

Scorton Creek in Sandwich has a shore fishing and small boat access near the mouth of the Creek. This site was a joint project between the Division of Marine Fisheries and the Public Access Board. The Division provided the funds and did the preliminary work on the site while P.A.B. provided the technical assistance for the project. The site has been kept in a very natural state; the agencies wanted to provide access and parking without disturbing the surroundings.

Squannacook River, Townsend

The Squannacook River in Townsend has a new Universal Access Site with exceptional trout fishing off of Route 119. This site was featured in the Spring 2001 edition of the Riverways Newsletter. The local chapter of Trout Unlimited built this access through funds and services donated to the organization. The P.A.B. provided construction materials and oversight for the project. The

Conservation Commission, Board of Selectman and the Department of Environmental Management also provided support for the project. DEM Division of Forest and Parks will maintain this facility.

Charles River, West Roxbury

The Charles River in West Roxbury has a newly constructed canoe access located off the VFW Parkway. The land was once an old landfill, which has been converted into a park. CDM, the consultant on the greening of this parcel, contacted P.A.B. about building a public access site as part of developing and expanding the recreation potential of the park. P.A.B. funded the public access portion of the facility, and the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department will manage the facility.

Wampatuck Pond, Hanson

In addition to river access sites, the P.A.B. has also completed construction on two pond access sites. Wampatuck Pond in Hanson is a fisherman access with a prefabricated concrete ramp and parking for cars with trailers and cartop boats. The site is located right behind Town Hall on town owned land, and the pond is famous as a warm water fishery, particularly for bass.

Haviland Pond, Ludlow

Haviland Pond in Ludlow has a fisherman access that also has plenty of parking for cars with trailers and cartop boats. The Ludlow Department of Public Works did all the construction, with the funds for construction provided by P.A.B. This pond is famous for its trout fishing.

New Sites for Fall

There are also new sites that are under construction or are being designed this fall. P.A.B. is in the process of constructing a site on the Concord River in Lowell. It will be a canoe and cartop access only, located just above the dam. The City of Lowell will manage the facility. This site will be an excellent take-out area for individuals in conjunction with a new site being designed upstream in Billerica. The Billerica site will be a prefabricated pad system that will accommodate small trailer crafts as well as canoe and cartop boats. In addition to these two sites, the Public Access Board is also in the preliminary stages of designing facilities on the Charles River in Medway with the town, on the Nashua River in Lancaster with the town, and on the Quinebaug River in Holland with the Army Corps of Engineers. All three locations are canoe access sites. So, get out and enjoy! The number of opportunities for getting out onto our rivers is getting larger every day.



Bungay River Conservation Area with a PAB cartop access site. This site is managed by the City of Attleboro. Photo by Rachel Calabro.

Urban Rivers Update

Chelsea Creek Historical Brochure

Most of the Commonwealth's oldest cities are located on rivers and these rivers are inextricably woven into the history of the city. This relationship between rivers and cultural history is interesting fodder for urban river advocates working on ways to reconnect people to rivers. Reaching back through history may be the avenue for renewed interest in a river's future. This possibility has been a recent tangent to Riverways' Urban Rivers Program pilot project on Chelsea Creek.

The first phase of this Chelsea Creek historical endeavor is in its concluding stages. A Citizens Advisory Group has been working closely with the Urban Rivers Program to fashion a brochure that highlights the compelling history of the creek and entices people to explore the creek and the three creek-side communities. The brochure provides the curious with a glimpse of a very different creek than the one of today and one filled with innumerable stories.

The brochure and accompanying 'tour' map highlight events, people and buildings from the pre-colonial era to the 20th century; offering one an eclectic and entertaining mix of information, insights and surprises. The tour tells of one of the Bay Colony's earliest governors and creek-side resident, Richard Bellingham. Bellingham was made famous, (some might say infamous) by Nathaniel Hawthorne who included him as a character in the *Scarlet Letter*. Author Horatio Alger began his 'rags to riches' life near the head of the creek and the clipper ship the Flying Cloud was launched from a Chelsea Creek boatyard to sail on to unprecedented speed records.

A view of the creek afforded from one of the surrounding hills coupled with learning about its noble place in history may inspire a new generation of people to make the creek a prominent part of the community, a place it has held through time. This interest can translate into increased awareness and involvement in the many other river-related efforts underway to revitalize the creek.

Fall River and its forgotten river

Interstate 195 is a major transportation corridor arcing across the southeastern corner of the state on its way to Providence, RI. The highway bisects the old seaports of New Bedford and Fall River. In Fall River, the road arches high above the Taunton River affording views of the USS Massachusetts in Battleship Cove, Narragansett Bay, and the crowded streets of the city.

The road also looms over an overlooked treasure of Fall River. The huge support towers of Route 195 bulldoze through the heart of the downtown area following the riverbed of the all but forgotten Quequechan River. The elevated highway shadows the Quequechan and the traffic noise overwhelms the gurgle of this small but energetic river.

The Fall River area is peppered with old granite quarries. Many of the city's older buildings were built from the handsome gray stone. It is this same resistant rock type that that formed steep rock faces along the path of the Quequechan River. The river flowed over these cliffs, cascading down as waterfalls. The river's surging waters provided valuable energy used to move timber logs and power cotton mills. In its day the city was home to over a 100 mills and it became a center of textile manufacturing. Some of the old mills still remain, their granite façades make them a distinct addition to the city and an unforgettable reminder that the Quequechan flows just below the pavement.

The river is hidden only briefly beneath buildings and city streets in the heart of downtown. This hidden section of river obscures the most fascinating and surprising attribute of the Quequechan River. Beneath the present site of city hall lies a thirty-foot waterfall. In the parking area of a nearby mill, a gap in the pavement lets the roar of the falling water escape and offers a teasing glimpse of what the covered waterfall must look like. Just upstream, a dam tames the Quequechan's falling waters creating an impoundment easily accessed from a city park. Advocates are working to increase recreational opportunities on the pond. The local group Green Futures is working to establish a pathway through the city linking the open spaces, the river, the impoundment and the waterfront. The greenway could eventually expand to connect the newly established Southeastern Massachusetts Bioserve with the city and surrounding communities.

The Dept of Environmental Management's Fall River Heritage State Park is built adjacent to the Quequechan River, just as it enters the Taunton River and Mount Hope Bay. A pedestrian bridge spans the mouth of the river providing access to the park's Visitor Center and gives thousands of visitors an opportunity to see the Quequechan River. DEM's Fall River Heritage State Park will be the location for the Urban Rivers Forum this Nov. 3rd. The forum offers an opportunity not only to see the Quequechan River but gather with urban river advocates from across the commonwealth to learn from each other and a host of workshops and speakers. See side bar for more information.



Slade's Spice Mill on Mill Creek in Chelsea was built in 1734 and bought by Henry Slade in 1827. It was operated through a tidal dam, and was used to grind spices from the island of Java. The mill was operated until 1976, and is one of the oldest still standing tidal mills in the world. Photo by Pat Sheppard.

Save the Date!

Fall River: On **Saturday, November 3RD**, the Riverways' Urban Rivers Program is partnering with Green Futures to hold the fourth annual Urban Rivers Forum. The forum will offer urban rivers advocates from across the state an opportunity to meet each other, enjoy a keynote address on how Providence revitalized their river, and attend workshops on creating urban greenways, public health, environmental justice as a tool for urban advocates, 'green' redevelopment, SE Mass initiatives and more. Please call Riverways at (617) 626-1540 or e-mail: cindy.delpapa@state.ma.us for more information.

Flowing Rivers

Or barely flowing rivers? The argument has been made that water quality is a moot parameter if there is no water in a river. River advocates have long measured a host of water quality properties but the few have had the resources to measure river flow. Recently the Riverways Programs were able to obtain a Pygmy Type flow meter suitable for measuring flow rates in wadable streams. The meter and a staff person will soon be available to work with river groups to begin the process of flow metering and all the possible uses for the information.

DEM Partnership Pilot in the Taunton

Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Program

The Heritage Landscape Inventory was established by the Department of Environmental Management, in conjunction with EOE's Community Preservation Initiative, to provide cities and towns with the resources to identify, document, and evaluate significant cultural and scenic landscapes. The focus of this program will be on unprotected landscapes, including working agricultural lands, industrial grounds, estates, town centers, cemeteries and burial grounds, gardens, roads and trails, ocean beaches and dunes, and archaeological sites.

A pilot program in three Southeastern Massachusetts watersheds was chosen to begin the Heritage Landscape Inventory. Communities were invited to apply from the Taunton River, Buzzard's Bay, and Narragansett/Mt. Hope Bays watersheds. The fifteen communities chosen will receive professional preservation consultant services at no cost to the community. The value of the consultant services is approximately \$10,000.00 per community. The consultant selected by DEM to provide services to the fifteen selected communities is PAL (The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.) of Pawtucket RI.

The communities chosen by the Swift administration to participate in the pilot program are Attleboro, Bridgewater, Dighton, East Bridgewater, Easton, Lakeville, Marion, Middleborough, Norton, Rehoboth, Rochester, Stoughton, Wareham, West Bridgewater, and Westport. "This program supports community based efforts to preserve the historic landscapes that enhance our quality of life and make Massachusetts unique," said Governor Jane Swift.

In addition to the inventory, the Pilot Program will include a statewide training workshop/conference scheduled for Spring 2002, a "Citizen's Guide" to the identification and preservation of heritage landscapes, and a Heritage Landscape Marker Program and Field Guide.

"The Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory is a critical component of our efforts to promote Community Preservation," said Environmental Affairs Secretary Robert Durand, "Through technical assistance we will provide cities and towns with the tools and resources to preserve their most treasured landscapes."

"This innovative new program will allow these fifteen communities to examine their landscapes in a comprehensive manner," said Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Commissioner Peter C. Webber. "Once each community has identified what landscapes are important to it, it can use that information for planning and preservation initiatives."

For more information on the Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory, please contact the Department of Environmental Management, Office of Historic Resources, at 617-626-1378.

River Restore Welcomes New Technical Assistant

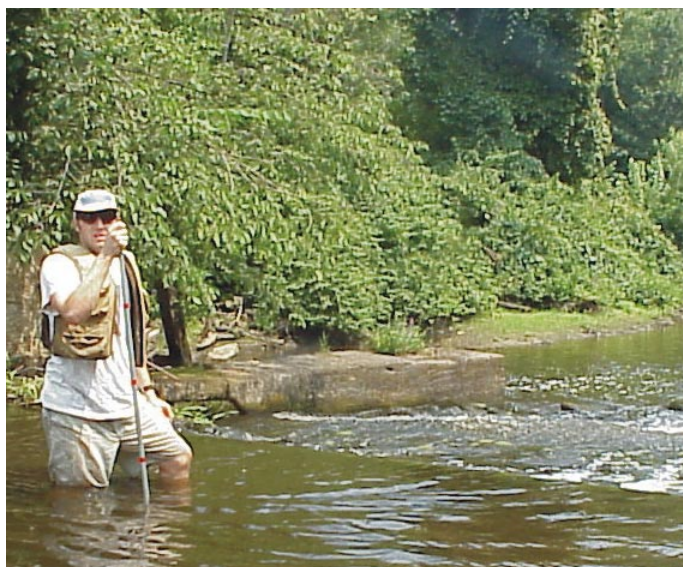
The River Restore Program welcomes Michael Merrill, conservation biologist, as a Technical Assistant. Michael's degree in conservation ecology provides him with an excellent foundation to look at restoring rivers through selective dam removal in Massachusetts.

Michael will be working to enhance and standardize the River Restore Triage Team process so that it can be used regionally as a screening tool to identify potential dam removal projects with a high likelihood of success. The purpose of the Triage Team is to provide feedback as to whether repair or removal of a particular dam in poor or unsafe condition would provide benefits to fish, wildlife and aquatic life. Benefits and detriments to be evaluated include, but are not limited to, fish movement and passage, and loss of spawning acreage or waterfowl breeding habitats. Mike has organized triage visits in the Nashua, Millers, and Chicopee watersheds this fall.

In addition, Michael will serve as a liaison with the U.S. Geological Survey to develop screening protocols and guidelines for sampling impounded sediments. This summer, the USGS complete field assessments in the French River (Perryville Pond on the Webster/Dudley line) and Yokum Brook (Ballou and Silk Mill Dams in Becket).

In Massachusetts, policies relative to dredged sediment formally govern upland disposal in terms of human contact. Mike will work with additional state, federal, and non-profit partners to draft and recommend new policies governing effects on aquatic life, both positive and negative, for projects where sediments will either be stabilized instream following dam removal or allowed to redistribute downstream following dam removal.

This project has been financed partially with Federal Funds from the Environmental Protection Agency to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection under Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act.



As you can see, Michael has an ambitious workplan but has jumped in feet-first and we look forward to benefiting from his expertise.

Adopt-A-Stream Update

Stream Team Updates

The Adopt-A-Stream Program has been working with several new Stream Teams this summer and fall. The staff trained three Stream Teams in October for Shoreline Surveys, and supported others working on Action Plans and reports. Adopt-A-Stream is also continuing to work with Train-the-Trainer groups in the Ipswich, Nashua and Housatonic River watersheds.

We are happy to be working with veteran Stream Teams Canton River Watershed Watchdogs and Friends of the Neponset Estuary in the Neponset River watershed to update their Action Plans through followup surveys. These teams were begun during the Watershed Initiative Neponset Pilot project in 1994, and will be further expanding their knowledge and helping their towns with increased attention paid to land use, habitat and storm drains. Both teams will be locating and assessing storm drain outlets during their surveys. It is wonderful to see the long-term dedicated support these organizations have given to the protection of their rivers. The followup surveys will help them to gather new support and new volunteers and turn new corners in their protection efforts.

New Stream Teams and Recent Shoreline Surveys

Weweantic Stream Team

The new Weweantic Stream Team finished their survey of the river in May and is currently working on an Action Plan. Residents from the communities of Wareham and Carver surveyed over 10 miles of the Weweantic and its tributaries extending from cranberry bogs in Carver out into the estuary and Buzzard's Bay. Initial findings showed many beautiful sections for recreation and habitat as well as some problem areas with nonpoint source pollution and trash.

Blackstone River Watershed Association

The Blackstone River Watershed Association is in the process of hiring a new Stream Team Coordinator to work with local groups in the Blackstone watershed. The Adopt-A-Stream program is looking forward to working closely with the association to start new Stream Teams.

Herring River Estuary Stream Team

Members of the newly formed Herring River Estuary Stream Team completed a Shoreline Survey during the last part of July and early August. The Stream Team, led by Suzanne Kavanagh with support from Paula Boyce of the North and South Rivers Watershed Association, has been looking closely at nonpoint source issues in this estuary that is part of the First Herring Brook watershed. High levels of bacteria have been found at a sampling station near the James Landing marina after wet weather. The Stream Team is also looking at land use and other issues related to the MBTA rail extension and documenting current conditions in the estuary.

Northboro Citizens for Community Preservation

This new group has formed around the issues of community preservation and support for the appreciation and preservation of its natural historic resources. The group is seeking to promote awareness of existing open space, and to help the town to protect historical sites, scenic landscapes, farms, wildlife habitats and watershed areas. The group participated in the September cleanup

of the Assabet River sponsored by the Organization for the Assabet River, and will join the Adopt-A-Stream program in Spring with a Shoreline Survey of the Assabet River in Northboro.

Aberjona River Stream Team

The Aberjona River Stream Team will survey sections of the Aberjona River in Reading, Woburn and Winchester during October. The team is being coordinated by the Mystic River Watershed Association. The Aberjona River has a complex set of issues including a history of industrial pollution and groundwater contamination as well as water quality and flooding issues.

Canton River Watershed Watchdogs

The Canton River Watershed Watchdogs formed in 1994 during the pilot year for the Watershed Initiative. The group is part of the network of Stream Teams within the Neponset River Watershed Association, but also has its own events and projects, such as the Canton Rotary River Day. This year they were able to bring the Selectmen, Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, NepRWA, and the Canton Rotary together to sponsor the event. The group also conducted an Earth Day cleanup on conservation land at the Canton Reservoir as part of a Community Water Watch event.

A followup Shoreline Survey will be conducted in October to look at conditions along the river, update the team's Action Plan and help work with the town on master planning and Phase II preparation. The group hopes to work with the town of Canton to identify storm drains and involve the public in education programs focusing on stormwater.

Friends of the Neponset Estuary

This friends group also started as a pilot Stream Team in the Neponset River watershed. The group has been active for years in Milton, Dorchester and Quincy, and will be doing a followup survey to look at changes along the river, reassess pipes and nonpoint source pollution, and to look more closely at land-use and its effects on the river system. Much recent focus has been on the smelt, shad and herring runs and options for improving habitat and fish passage at the Baker Dam in the Lower Mills section of Milton. Other issues include salt marsh protection and restoration, espe-



One of five storm drains coming off Route 6 into the lower Weweantic River in Wareham. Photo by Ed Pacewicz.

cially at Squantum Point, local stewardship and education efforts, and nonpoint source pollution. The Friends of the Neponset Estuary will team up with the Fore River Watershed Association and will include the Quincy sections of the Fore River and some of the Town River.

Continuing Stream Teams

Millers River Watershed

Otter River Stream Team

The Otter River Stream Team held their first cleanup along the Otter River in Baldwinville on May 12th. The Stream Team is also working with Karen Pelto and the River Restore Program to look at the possibility of removing an old dilapidated dam along the river.

South Coastal Watershed

First Herring Brook Watershed Initiative

The First Herring Brook team is busy as usual tromping through the watershed. In September, the team continued to work on macroinvertebrates and spent time looking at habitat along the river corridor. Most recently they have gotten a web page up and running, with information on events, news and photos. See their web page at www.fhbwi.org.

Charles River Watershed

Norumbega to Nonantum Stream Team

Stream Team member Norman Richardson has begun a macroinvertebrate sampling project on the Charles River below the Laundry Brook outfall. He is investigating the impacts of stormwater on the diversity of insect life in the river.

Nashua River Watershed

Fitchburg Stream Team

The Fitchburg Stream Team conducted a second annual Shoreline Survey of all seven miles of the North Nashua River within the city limits. Based on the data collected during the survey, the Stream Team is working to conduct clean-ups of dumpsites located along the river. This past spring, students from Fitchburg State College worked with Stream Team members to remove trash from several segments of Baker Brook, a North Nashua tributary.

Ipswich River Watershed

Reading/North Reading Stream Team

The Stream Team cosponsored a presentation on the *Children and Families' Protection Act* with the Reading League of Conservation Voters, on May 29th, 2001. The talk let people know how the act is implemented to protect children from pesticide use, another example of the Reading/North Reading Stream Team cooperating locally to educate the community on important issues.

Middleton Stream Team

The Middleton Stream Team is busy with several projects. A canoe launching area is being developed near Rt. 114 on land that is now owned by the town through a tax default. The Team has received donations of picnic tables and offers from local scout troops to plant flowers for this new conservation area and nature trail. Another new canoe launching area on the Ipswich River will be maintained by the town with signs and trash barrels to keep the area clean. The Stream Team is also developing a display for the post office with maps of the sub-basin and area conservation activities. The Team is also petitioning USGS to add a named tributary to the Reading Quad. Historical Society research has convinced the Selectman to add the brook to local maps. Also, the town will be placing large trash barrels at river/road crossings,

painted with "Protect Our Stream", in an effort to reduce trash in the river and streams.

North Coastal Watershed

Sawmill Brook/Manchester Stream Team

The town of Manchester-by-the-Sea has received a five star grant from the NOAA Restoration Center to restore smelt habitat along Sawmill Brook. The Manchester Stream Team will work in partnership with the Town of Manchester, Salem Sound 2000, Ipswich Bay Fly Fisherman's Association, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program, Massachusetts Riverways Program, and the North Coastal Watershed Team to restore prime smelt spawning habitat. Stone retaining walls along the brook will be repaired to stabilize the bank, prevent erosion, restore water flows and uncover gravel spawning habitat. A citizen driven effort will clear invasive plants, trash and other barriers to stream flow and to restore habitat. Educational materials on the environmental benefits of riparian buffers are being distributed to abutting landowners and others by the Manchester Stream Team.

The Division of Marine Fisheries will monitor smelt egg deposition, water flows, and the structural integrity of the repaired walls to determine the long-term success of this restoration project and the benefits to smelt populations. Funding for this project is provided by the NOAA Fisheries Community Based Restoration Program.

Housatonic River Watershed

Stockbridge Stream Team

The Stockbridge Stream Team completed a Shoreline Survey in April and is working on their report this fall. The Stockbridge team is part of a series of Stream Teams started by the Housatonic Valley Association as part of their Community Watershed Initiative, working to build the capacity of volunteers to reclaim the Housatonic River.

Lenox & Lee Stream Team

The Lenox and Lee Stream Team completed their Shoreline Survey of the mainstem of the Housatonic River from the wastewater treatment plant in Lenoxdale to the Willow Mill Dam in South Lee. The Stream Team is prioritizing the projects in their Action Plan, and has finished a report for their Shoreline Survey. The report includes section maps with GIS point data showing locations of pipes, runoff, trash and other impacted areas. The Department of Environmental Protection will be meeting with the Housatonic Valley Association to look over each Stream Team report and decide which problems to follow up with.

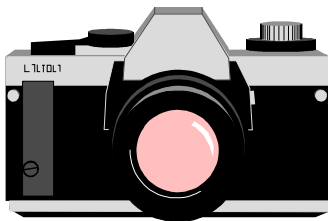
The Lenox and Lee team has been interested in a potential greenway, and has identified potential access points. Cleanups were also an issue, as well as invasive species and the removal of the remnants of hazardous dams, dubbed "dragons' teeth" because of the metal spikes that were part of the dam structure.

Please get in contact with Adopt-A-Stream Program staff and let us know what your group has been doing in your community. For further information on Stream Teams, contact Rachel Calabro at 617-626-1549.

River Snapshots



Members of the Westfield Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee are conducting site visits to determine tributaries that should be added to the designated sections on the three main stem branches of the Westfield River. The Westfield River, the first designated Wild and Scenic River in Massachusetts, has an active advisory committee working on public education, trails and involving the public and towns in protecting this remarkable river. Photo by Jeff Penn.



Matt Zettek and Leslee Willets leading a walk on the newly dedicated Carol Getchell Nature Trail along the Wild And Scenic Sudbury River in the historic Saxonville section of Framingham. This summer, the Nature Trail Planning Committee, officials from the Town of Framingham, students from the Stapleton Elementary School, joined by neighborhood groups, the Framingham Advocates for the Sudbury River, students, legislators and state agency staff dedicated the Nature Trail to the late principal of the Stapleton Elementary School. River advocates had a dream of creating a trail here to bring the community to the river.

Carol Getchell, as principal of Stapleton Elementary School had the dream of using the river as an educational resource in the schools back yard. These two dreams merged. After years of planning, securing funds and coordinating volunteer and student efforts, the trail was created and is now an integral part of the curriculum at the "environmental school" in Framingham. The trail continues to be used frequently since its official opening in the spring of 2000 highlighted by Secretary Bob Durand's keynote speech which praised the students and encouraged their participation in Biodiversity Days. Photo by Joan Kimball



In preparation for the November 3rd Urban Rivers Forum in Fall River, Everett Castro and Al Lima of Green Futures gave the Urban Rivers staff a tour of the Quequechan River. The Forum, at the DEM Heritage Park, will overlook the confluence of the Quequechan and Taunton Rivers. Quequechan, the Wampanoag word for falling waters provided the name for the City of Fall River. The Quequechan traverses Fall River from Watuppa Pond to confluence over granite boulders into the Taunton River. Once a vibrant part of Fall River's past, part of the river now runs beneath City Hall and Route 195, and part provides scenic vistas for the city. Green Futures, under the slogan "citizen action for a better community," is promoting the idea of a greenway along the scenic areas of the river and taking pedestrians and bikers to the new Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve. Photo by Joan Kimball.





The Mystic River Watershed Association invited watershed residents, municipal officials, legislators, state and federal agency staff to attend the unveiling of their new watershed map. The 80X80 foot map, depicting the watershed's water bodies and greenspaces, is painted on the MDC parking lot near the Medford Boat Club and the Mystic Lakes Dam. Funding from DEM and staff support from the National Park Service's Rivers and Trails Program made this map possible. Anna Shapiro, a local Somerville artist has completed the first of two maps. The event was extraordinary. Some officials saying that they finally understood the concept of watersheds, others looking for connections and still others noting the need for more greenspace along the river. Everyone enjoyed finding their favorite spots in the watershed. Anna is working on a second map in the Chelsea River subwatershed. Photo by Joan Kimball.



Paddlers enjoying a recreational release of water in the Zoar Gap section of the Deerfield River in Charlemont this past summer. Photo by Russell Cohen.



Legislative Update

State Legislation

The Massachusetts legislature recently passed the midpoint of its biennial session, which will end on July 31, 2002. Here's a brief summary of some of the environmental legislation currently being considered at the State House:

This past spring, the Mass. Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) filed a new \$750 million "environmental infrastructure" bond bill. It was submitted by the Administration as part of an overall \$1.55 billion "Act Providing for Capital Facility Improvements and Repairs for the Commonwealth." The text of the EOEA bill can be found on the Environmental League of Massachusetts' (ELM's) website (<<http://www.environmentalleague.org>>).

According to ELM, the Commonwealth's existing debt-financed open space funding mechanisms are considered by many to be too uncertain to plan on and inadequate to preserve Massachusetts' threatened natural areas, forests, farmland, and historic landscapes.

The supplemental budget bill (S.2093) passed by the Mass. State Senate this past summer proposes to establish a new open space preservation fund, using 15% of the annual state operating fund surplus. This proposal came directly from Senate President Thomas Birmingham. This legislation changes the allocation of annual surplus revenue, which is currently split two ways: 60% into the Rainy Day Fund (so-called); and 40% into the Capital Projects Fund (for one-time capital outlays). If the House adopts the Senate proposal, the new funding split would be: 45% - Rainy Day Fund; 40% - Capital Projects Fund; and 15% - Open Space Acquisition Fund. According to Senate estimates, if this allocation had been in place over the past five years, over \$170 million would have been made available for state agency expenditures on open space acquisition (between \$25-40 million annually). At this time, the House has yet to act on this proposal. Contact Sen. Birmingham's office [(617) 722-1500, <Tbirming@sen.state.ma.us>] for more information.

Senate Bill 1109, An Act to Protect the Natural and Historic Resources of the Commonwealth, (a.k.a. the "Article 97" bill), sponsored by Senator Pam Resor (D-Acton), is currently before the Senate Committee on Ways & Means. This bill would ensure no net loss of conservation land owned by state agencies or local governments when such land is transferred to different uses.

House Bill 3159, An Act Establishing **Old-Growth Forest Reserves**, sponsored by Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington) and Senator Andrea Nuciforo (D-Pittsfield), is before the House Committee on Ways & Means. This bill would authorize the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs to conduct an inventory of old growth forests in Massachusetts, and establish a system of permanent old growth forest reserves on designated state lands.

H. 3579, An Act Establishing the **Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve**, sponsored by Representative Eric Turkington (D-Falmouth), is before the Senate Committee on Ways & Means. This bill would establish a three-member commission, composed of representatives of state environmental agencies, to guide the management of the northern 15,000 acres of the Massachusetts Military Reservation. The commission would be empowered to ensure that any military activity on the reserve is compatible with the primary purposes of water supply and wildlife habitat protec-

tion. In the last session, the Massachusetts Army National Guard successfully blocked the bill due to concerns about the impacts to military training and troop readiness from environmental restrictions.

S. 1011, **An Act Facilitating the Use of Land Transfer of Development Rights**, sponsored by Senator Stephen Brewer (D-Barre), is now before the House of Representatives. The bill was engrossed in the Senate on July 26. This legislation would enable municipalities to adopt zoning ordinances or by-laws that authorize the transfer of development rights (also called TDRs) by special permit. TDRs allow for the exchange of development rights from one parcel to another. TDRs can preserve open space without payment of compensation through the acceptance of higher densities or more intensive uses elsewhere in the community. Throughout the nation, communities are using TDRs to promote the preservation of open space, historic landmarks, and village centers.

S. 1105, the **Livable Communities Act**, sponsored by Senator Pacheco, received a favorable report by the Natural Resources Committee and is now before the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The bill includes funding for communities and regions to plan.

Federal legislation

This past spring, the Resources Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives voted in favor of H.R. 701, the **Conservation and Reinvestment Act** (a.k.a. C.A.R.A.), which would provide \$3 billion a year for various conservation programs, with much of the money going to state and local governments. The final committee vote was 29-12 for the bill, which as of this summer had 239 co-sponsors among the 435 members of the House. Senator Mary Landrieu reintroduced the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (S1328) in the U.S. Senate in early August. Landrieu's bill is the version of C.A.R.A. that passed the U.S. House of Representatives last year with an overwhelming 315-102 vote. The bill proposes to reinvest \$3.1 billion, a portion of the revenues from federal offshore oil and gas leases, into state-based wildlife conservation, coastal conservation and impact assistance, historic preservation, urban parks and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Massachusetts would be eligible for \$6.8 million per year to enhance historically under-funded wildlife projects, increase wildlife-related recreation opportunities for adults and children and expand conservation-oriented education programs for teachers and students. For more information contact the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies [(202) 624-7890, <<http://www.teaming.com>>].

H.R. 2290, The **Conservation Tax Incentives Act**, was introduced by Congressman Rob Portman (R-Ohio). The bill would provide a 50% capital gains tax exclusion to private landowners who voluntarily sell their land to a public or private conservation entity for conservation purposes. This innovative, cost-effective incentive would benefit landowners who voluntarily sell land or easements for conservation purposes by reducing the capital gains taxes on such transactions. The provision is strictly voluntary and uses definitions already enacted in the Internal Revenue Code. The bill is also included in President Bush's budget and has bipartisan support on Capitol Hill.

The incentive is designed for "land rich, cash poor" landowners who own sensitive natural areas, but cannot afford to donate land as a charitable gift. Often when ecologically sensitive and potentially profitable land goes on the market, public agencies and private conservation organizations cannot offer the seller the financial return that a developer can provide. The Conservation Tax

Incentives Act would allow private and public conservation partners to make financially attractive offers on top priority sites for conservation. For more information, contact Phil Tabas at The Nature Conservancy [(617) 542-1908 ext.227, <ptabas@tnc.org>].

On a similar note: current federal tax law applying to the income tax deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation easement or land limit the donor's deductions to no more than 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year, for up to 6 years. That means that if you are wealthy and donate an easement valued at \$1 million, you can take close to \$1 million in deductions from your income tax. But if you make \$50,000 a year, you can only take \$90,000 in deductions! These limits need to be expanded in order to have a realistic incentive for farmers and ranchers of modest means to donate valuable conservation easements on their property.

S. 701, sponsored by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) and H.R. 1309 - sponsored by Representative Nancy Johnson (R-CT), would expand the deduction for donations/bargain sales of fee ownership, conservation easements and other eligible interests in land for conservation purposes to 50% of the donor's AGI for as many years as it takes to deduct the entire value donated. S. 701 goes further and allow donors whose income was predominantly from

farming or ranching to deduct up to 100% of their AGI, for up to 15 years. That could mean up to 15 years of zero taxes, which could yield a significant cash flow benefit for the farmer or rancher earning their living on the land.

Pro-Bono Work from Boston College

Each year, the **Boston College Environmental Law Society** (<http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/law/st_org/els/>) coordinates a group of students and faculty advisors in providing *pro-bono* (i.e., free) assistance on one or more environmental projects. Past projects have ranged from research and writing, to the preparation of an amicus brief in major litigation. Informal proposals are being currently solicited from potential partners. All suggestions are welcome - from small, discrete research projects to larger projects that require a range of assistance. Projects can be in litigation, but may also involve broader policy and non-legal issues. For more information, contact Nick Rosenberg, Projects Director, Boston College Environmental Law Society, at <rosenben@bc.edu> or (617) 916-5340. ●

Public Involvement Sought for the Source Water Assessment Program

Massachusetts has over 1,600 public water systems that provide drinking water to homes, schools, businesses, and industries. Over 90 percent of the state's population depends on public water supply sources that are often vulnerable to contamination. More than 70 communities have shut down at least one source because of contamination. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has had a water supply protection program since 1980 and aggressive source protection programs for over 10 years.

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 emphasize the importance of protecting public drinking water. The law requires every state to examine existing and potential threats to the quality of all its public water supply sources and to develop a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP). These new federal requirements will help DEP, public water suppliers and local officials focus their resources on improving protection statewide. As a result, local water suppliers and municipal officials will receive more hydrogeological, geographical and planning assistance from DEP for improved protection of local drinking water sources.

DEP's SWAP process has four major components: (1) delineate the areas of land contributing flow to all public ground and surface water supply withdrawal points ("public" is interpreted broadly to include small systems serving schools, apartment complexes, restaurants, campgrounds, etc.); (2) inventory land uses in these areas that may present "potential sources of contamination" to these water supply sources; (3) determine the susceptibility of water supplies to contamination from these

potential sources of contamination (PSC); and (4) make recommendations to the public water suppliers and their customers on how to reduce the threat of contamination from these sources.

SWAP builds on existing water supply protection programs in MA for both groundwater and surface water sources. As of October 1998, 179 communities have adopted groundwater protection bylaws and 81 have adopted watershed protection regulations. Additionally, 59 public water systems already meet DEP's most stringent requirements for groundwater protection. Despite this

progress, many communities still lack adequate protection controls. With the SWAP process, local officials will receive assessment reports

which will include prioritized recommendations for improving water supply protection. SWAP information can help educate the public and build support for program implementation (e.g., raising water rates to provide adequate funds for watershed and/or aquifer land acquisition and protection). DEP will also assist municipalities with implementing land use controls for the most threatened sources, provide training and other guidance.

SWAP will provide valuable new information for the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative, a multi-agency effort to improve the quality of all natural resources in the Commonwealth's 27 major river and coastal watersheds. Watershed teams will use the information in evaluating each watershed. Additionally, the basin teams will help disseminate SWAP results to the public through planned outreach meetings and in discussions with local officials.

GIS maps are playing a major role in the SWAP process. The locations of all public water supply sources, the areas contributing flow to those sources (a.k.a. water supply protection areas or WSPA) and surrounding land uses are already available from MassGIS. GIS data layers with DEP regulated facilities, hazardous waste (21E) sites, underground storage tanks (USTS) and wastewater and other discharge points will be linked with site-specific information to determine a water source's susceptibility to contamination. Working with automated data will enable DEP to provide assessment results to the public through the Internet and other avenues.

Water supplies and potentially threatening land uses will be displayed on maps linked to site-specific information. Users will be able to access the maps on the DEP SWAP web page (see below). For example, a local official may click on a selected land use, such as the symbol for an underground storage tank, and get facility information. There will also be links to recommendations on

Continues, page 15

Resources & Grants

Grants

The Mass. Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA)'s **Outdoor Classroom Grants** Request for Responses (RFR) for fiscal year 2002 has recently been posted on the web at <<http://www.state.ma.us/envir/education/outdoor.pdf>>. These grants are intended to help schools better connect with the natural habitats outside their school buildings through the development of nature trails, wildlife viewing areas and the like. This is a great opportunity for schools adjacent to rivers and streams to raise students' awareness of and develop stewardship responsibilities for those waterways and adjacent lands.

Responses will be accepted any time up until January 31st, 2002. Individual contracts of up to \$2,500.00 will be awarded on a competitive basis according to the selection criteria. Although the Outdoor Classroom Grant is funded on a monthly rolling basis, the sooner you apply, the better chance you have of getting an award. For more information, contact Melissa Griffiths, EOEA Environmental Education Coordinator, at (617) 626-1114, (617) 626-1181 (fax) or <melissa.griffiths@state.ma.us>.

The deadline for applications to the current round of funding from the **U.S. EPA's Environmental Education Grants Program** is **November 15, 2001**. Interested applicants can obtain information, the solicitation notice and application from the EPA Environmental Ed Grants web page at <<http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>> or by calling Sarah White at (617) 918-1026.

The **New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF)** is a small grants program designed to foster and give voice to grassroots environmental initiatives in the six New England states. They provide grants of up to \$2,500 to fuel civic engagement, local activism, and social change. NEGEF funds community involvement in projects that address a wide range of environmental issues including: agriculture, air quality, alternative energy, aquifer protection, biotechnology, community gardens, environmental justice, energy conservation, forestry, global warming, land trusts, marine environment, public health, sprawl, sustainable communities, toxics and hazardous waste, trails, water quality, watershed management, wetlands, wildlife, and

youth-organized environmental work. NEGEF was created to assist groups who are not being reached by traditional funders. NEGEF's user-friendly web page (<<http://www.grassrootsfund.org>>) is worth checking out, as it contains on-line versions of NEGEF's current and past newsletters and a recommended reading list for potential grantees as well as links to grant recipients sorted by resource type (water, e.g.). For more information, contact Cheryl King Fischer, Executive Director, at (802) 223-4622.

The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** is seeking applications for wetland and wetland-associated upland conservation Projects under its Small Grants program. Maximum grant award is \$50,000 per project. Deadline for application is **November 30, 2001**. Funding priority will be given to projects from new grant applicants with new partners. For more information, call Dr. Keith A. Morhouse, Small Grants Coordinator, at (703) 358-1784, or go on-line to <<http://birdhabitat.fws.gov/NAWCA/smgrants.html>>.

The U.S.EPA has funded an **Internet Guide to Financing Stormwater Management** (<<http://stormwaterfinance.urbancenter.iupui.edu/home.htm>>) to help communities pay for stormwater management projects. On a related topic (stormwater, not financing), you might want to check out some information about **porous pavement** on the Web at <<http://www.millermicro.com/porpave.html>>.

River Network (RN) recently announced the on-line availability (for RN Partners only) of its **2001-2002 Directory of Funding Sources for Grassroots River and Watershed Conservation Groups** at <<http://www.rivernetwork.org/library/libfundir.cfm>>. The directory contains information on over 300 private, corporate and federal funding sources. The web page also provides advice on how to write a winning proposal as well as sample proposals and cover letters. RN Partners without Internet access may call RN's Reni Fox at (503) 241-3506 and she will print the portions of the **Directory** relevant to your organization and send it to you. RN Partnerships cost \$100/year; benefits include the **Directory**, subscriptions to RN's **River Voices** and **River Fundraising Alert** quarterly journals and a toll-free hotline (800-423-6747) for all your river-related questions, plus (for new RN Partners) a free copy of **Starting Up: A Handbook for New River and Watershed Organizations; How to Save a River: A Handbook for Citizen**

Action; River Talk! Communicating a Watershed Message; The Clean Water Act - An Owner's Manual or **Testing The Waters**. A printed version of the **Directory** is available for \$41 for non-RN partners. For more information contact Kathy Luscher at (503) 241-3506 or <kluscher@rivernetwork.org>.

On-line Resources

The **U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)** recently launched its new, on-line **National Water Information System** website (NWISWeb) and in so doing opened the doors to the public to much more of the 100 years of water data collected by the federal earth science agency. The new website, found at <<http://water.usgs.gov/nwis/>>, allows users to access several hundred million pieces of archival and real-time data—all from their home or office computers. The USGS has been providing real-time streamflow and historical streamflow data on the web for several years now.

NWISWeb improves that service and integrates it with many other types of water data including historical water-quality data from rivers and aquifers, historical ground-water level data, and real-time water quality, precipitation, and ground-water levels. NWISWeb data comes from a vast, nationwide network of more than 1.5 Million USGS water data collection stations, including 338,000 water-quality sites where samples are taken from rivers or aquifers; 21,200 past and present streamflow sites; 7,570 real-time sites including streams, lakes/reservoirs, ground water, and meteorological sites; and 1.37 million wells. For more information, contact Butch Kinerney, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Communications, at <bkinerney@usgs.gov> or (703) 648-4732.

More than 3,000 watershed associations, Stream Teams and other groups are now listed in the U.S. EPA's **Adopt Your Watershed** database, which is one of several searchable databases available in the new **Watershed Information Network** (<<http://www.epa.gov/win/>>). All existing groups on the database now have the option of going on-line at <<http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/adopt.nsf/update>> to update their information. Groups not currently in the database but would like to be can go to <<http://www.epa.gov/adopt>> and click on "Join Now".

The **National Environmental Services Center (NESC)** (pronounced "nessie",

<http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/nesc/nesc_about.htm>) is a government-funded service organization housed at West Virginia University that specializes in providing technical assistance and information about drinking water, wastewater, solid waste management and environmental training to communities serving fewer than 100,000 people. The NESC website provides information on the **National Small Flows Clearinghouse**, which deals with small flow wastewater treatment techniques (septic systems, constructed wetlands, etc.), including free subscriptions to its *Small Flows Quarterly* and *Pipeline* journals; the **National Drinking Water Clearinghouse**, providing technical assistance in drinking water to small communities and free subscriptions to the new *On Tap* magazine; the **National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities** and the **National On-site Demonstration Program**, which encourages the use of alternative, decentralized wastewater treatment technologies in small and rural communities. NESC also offers hundreds of publications and other products relating to drinking water and wastewater treatment. Last but not least, NESC offers a toll-free technical assistance hotline at (800) 624-8301 (M-F 8AM-5PM).

The Mass. Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services (DLS) has developed a 45-page guideline on the **Community Preservation Act**. IGR No. 00-209 includes the mechanics and timetables for adoption as well as detailed explanations of all financial aspects: the surcharge, funds, borrowing, acquiring property, reporting requirements, sample votes and relevant forms. This and related documents are viewable on-line at <<http://www.state.ma.us/dls>> (look under "What's New?"). [Also, if you haven't already, check out <<http://www.communitypreservation.org>>.]

The **Mass. Historical Commission** (MHC), with the help of UMass-Boston, has recently developed an Internet mailing list for historic preservation in Massachusetts. The goal is to facilitate those with a mutual interest in historic preservation to share preservation-related information, ideas, events, questions and experiences from across the Commonwealth. If you are interested in joining this new list, you can subscribe by sending a message to <masshistpres-request@cs.umb.edu> with the body consisting of the word "subscribe" only. When you subscribe, you will receive an acknowledgement and instructions for posting messages. Please contact Christopher Skelly, Director of Local Gov-

ernment Programs, MHC [(617) 727-8470 or <Christopher.Skelly@sec.state.ma.us>] with any questions or comments.

The Canadian province of Alberta's **Riparian Habitat Management Program** (<http://www.cowsandfish.org>) offers a wealth of information on the functions and values of riparian areas as well as *Riparian Health Assessment* forms and user manuals to help landowners and land managers determine the relative health of their riparian areas.

Non-Government On-line Resources

Center for Ecological Technology (CET) <<http://www.cetonline.org>>

CET's mission is to research, develop, demonstrate and promote technologies that have the least destructive impact on the natural ecology of the Earth. Since 1976, CET has helped western Mass. communities meet the normal challenges of daily life with practical, affordable and environmentally sound solutions, especially in the areas of energy and natural resource conservation. CET's Web page offers technical assistance tailored to farm, business, residential, school and other community settings as well as on-line information on recycling and purchasing recycled products, alternative energy, composting, hazardous waste reduction/disposal and CET's pithy *EcoBytes* on-line newsletter.

Earth Force <<http://www.green.org>>

Earth Force's recently-launched website, GREEN.org, is designed to help educators and young people make lasting improvements to your watershed by offering an online monitoring database and community action tool. Designed for monitoring groups and interested browsers alike, the site contains a national database of locally-generated data for biological, chemical, physical, and land use information; special project pages for registered users to create customized records of their watershed monitoring and action projects; a detailed Action Steps and Checklist system (<http://www.green.org/my_page.php>) to lead users through a step-by-step monitoring and problem-solving process based on the Earth Force process; an extensive Resources section <<http://www.green.org/resources/>> to support monitoring and action taking; and the ability for large watershed monitoring organizations to review and coordinate monitoring data from affiliated monitoring groups. For more information, contact Vince Meldrum, Vice President of Programs, Earth Force, at (703) 519-6864.

Fish Unlimited

<<http://www.fishunlimited.org>>

Fish Unlimited's mission is to advocate responsible stewardship of our planet's fresh and salt water estuaries, along with their respective ecosystems, in order to preserve these priceless resources for current and future generations. Fish U is particularly concerned about the threats to fisheries and fish habitat posed by pollution, overfishing and destructive fishing methods. At this website you can learn about and enroll in Fish Unlimited's innovative tagging program. Anglers can place specially-designed tags on fish they catch and release which, when the fish are recaptured, can provide valuable information on fish migration patterns, growth rates, preferred habitats, etc. Tagging kits cost \$12 (refills \$5) and may be ordered on-line or by calling (631) 749-3474.

Freshwater Initiative (FWI)

<<http://www.freshwaters.org/ccwp/home.html>>

A project of **The Nature Conservancy**, FWI was founded in 1998 in recognition of the importance of and threats to freshwater waterways and their habitats. FWI seeks to preserve and restore freshwater habitats through naturalizing channelized and/or dammed rivers and streams, reducing environmentally harmful water withdrawals and diversions and other means. Detailed explanations of FYT's three strategies, *Watershed Action*, *Water Science* and *Water Lessons* are provided at this website as well as links to other on-line resources relevant to freshwater conservation. Last but not least, the website provides information about a software package called the *Indicators of Hydrologic Alteration*, which allows hydrologists and ecologists to statistically characterize hydrologic regimes and is a valuable tool for helping to ensure streamflow patterns and volumes that are sufficient for sustaining healthy riverine ecosystems.

Historic USGS Maps of New England

<<http://docs.unh.edu/nhtopos/nhtopos.htm>>

This site, maintained by the University of New Hampshire, contains scanned USGS topographic quadrangle and other maps going back for more than a century. These maps provide fascinating glimpses into the way things used to be (but do be patient; the maps take awhile to download). Historic maps can be quite valuable in helping to document past conditions as a guide to restoration efforts.

Native Fish Conservancy (NFC)

<<http://www.nativefish.org>>

The NFC is a nonprofit organization committed to the study, keeping, preservation of and public education about the native fish species of North America. NFC's web page contains an extensive native fish photo gallery and a native fish articles database as well as information on aquatic invasives removal and "Adopt-A-Tank" program.

Nature Sounds Society

<<http://www.naturesounds.org>>

The Nature Sounds Society is a worldwide organization whose principle purpose is to encourage the preservation, appreciation and creative use of natural sounds. The Society promotes education on the technological, scientific and aesthetic aspects of nature sounds through its programs and a diverse network of contacts. The organization is composed of biologists, museum professionals, conservationists, sound designers, musicians, artists and radio broadcast specialists concerned with ambient natural sound. [A related website, the **Noise Pollution Clearinghouse** (NPC), <<http://www.nonoise.org>>], is a national nonprofit organization with extensive on-line noise-related resources.] Both these groups should be helpful in the effort to document and reduce the adverse impact of traffic and other civilization-related noises on bird, amphibian and other noise-sensitive wild animal species.

Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF)

<<http://www.rbff.org>>

RBFF is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase participation in recreational angling and boating and thereby increase public awareness and appreciation of the need for protecting, conserving and restoring the nation's aquatic natural resources. RBFF's new "**Water Works Wonders**" website <<http://www.waterworkswonders.org>> contains information on fishing and boating opportunities in Massachusetts and other U.S. states that will no doubt become more valuable as additional information is added to the site.

Save America's Water

<<http://www.saveamericaswater.com>>

Save America's Water is a national website dedicated to helping people in the U.S. prevent damage to their communities water supplies by multinational water companies. The site alleges that bottled water companies are taking too much water against citizens' wishes and draining,

sometimes contaminating, America's springs, streams, lakes, rivers and groundwater. The site contains information on the water bottling industry as well as various citizen-led campaigns across the country to protect local water resources against excessive consumptive withdrawals and contamination. [On a related topic: the Mass. State Senate Post Audit and Oversight Committee recently issued a report entitled **Money Down the Drain? A Review of Bottled Water in Massachusetts**. The report is viewable on-line at <<http://www.state.ma.us/legis/bottledwater.htm>>.]

TechFoundation

<<http://www.techfoundation.org>>

The mission of TechFoundation, a new Massachusetts-based foundation, is to help nonprofits "bridge the digital divide" and plug into technology. TechFoundation acts as a venture capital fund and group-buying agent, raising money, making grants and providing tech consulting. The foundation has raised more than \$2.5 million and will hand out \$500,000 in its first round of grantmaking.

Water Education Foundation

<<http://www.water-ed.org>>

The mission of the Water Education Foundation, an impartial, nonprofit organization, is to create a better understanding of water issues and help resolve water resource problems through educational programs such as television documentaries, school programs, press, executive and attorney briefings and the Layperson's Guide series. Although the organization's primary focus has been on California and other western water issues, many of its programs are applicable to our increasingly water-scarce region.

Calendar

The **New England Wild Flower Society** (NEWFS, <<http://www.newfs.org>>) is sponsoring an **Ecological Alternatives to Lawns Workshop** at Garden in the Woods in Framingham on **Saturday, October 27** from 10AM-3PM. If you would like to reclaim time spent mowing, enrich the habitat for yourself and other wildlife, and do your part to improve environmental quality, sign up for this hands-on demonstration by landscape architect Ruth Parnall, known for her commitment to native plants. An exercise at a residential site within walking distance is included. To register (\$40 NEWFS members, \$48 non-members) call (508) 877-7630 ext.3303

Harvard University's Graduate School of Design (GSD) is sponsoring an international conference entitled **Reclaimed: Brown Fields and Gray Waters: Case Studies of Reclamation Processes and Design Practices**, from **November 9-11** (Fri-Sun). One of the major topics addressed will be river/stream restoration through daylighting, bioengineering and natural channel design. Proceeding the conference will be three Executive Education Seminars on **Building a Restoration Toolbox: Earth, Plants and Water** on **Nov. 6-8** (Tues.-Thurs.), all of which have relevance to riparian corridors. Conference registration fees begin at \$350, but discounts of \$175 are available for NGOs (have your org.'s tax-exempt number ready). Information on these programs can be found on-line at <<http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/news/conferences/restoration>> and <<http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/execed>> respectively or by calling Erin Sweeney at (617) 495-0647.

The **New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services** and the **NH Rivers Council** are co-hosting a statewide **River and Watershed Conference** on **Saturday, November 17**. Contact Steve Tolzman at (603) 271-1152 for more information.

The **Rowe Camp and Conference Center** (<<http://www.rowecenter.org>>) is hosting **Ecological Design: An Emerging Science and Practice**, taught by John and Nancy Jack Todd, from **February 8-10, 2002**. The Todds have developed new ways of dealing with human wastes by creating contained ecosystems they call "living machines". They have used similar contained ecosystems to restore disrupted processes in natural bodies of water. Rowe Camp is also hosting **Rewilding the Northeast**, taught by Dave Foreman and the Wildlands Project, from March 1-3, 2002. Contact Rowe Camp at (413) 339-4954 or <retreat@rowecenter.org> for more information.

The **River Management Society** (RMS) will be hosting its 2002 Symposium, **Incredible Rivers, Incredible Demands**, in Boise, Idaho from **May 1-4, 2002**. Check RMS's web page <<http://www.river-management.org/symposium.html>> or call Caroline Tan at (406) 549-0514 for more information.

Books

River Days: Exploring the Connecticut River from Source to Sea, a new book by prolific nature/outdoor author Michael Tougas, recounts Tougas' trips on the river of his boyhood dreams. He chronicles

the river's emergence from a polluted to a treasured waterway that now hosts bald eagle cruises, theatre boats and guided fishing trips. He also discusses issues affecting the river today such as dam removal and salmon restoration, and emphasizes the need for continued protection of this American Heritage River. **River Days** (224pp., \$14.95) can be ordered from its publisher, AMC Books, at <<http://www.outdoors.org/Tools/store.pl?page=browse&category=adventure>> or by calling (800) 262-4455.

In a similar vein: a collaboration of over a dozen Connecticut authors' and artists' love and knowledge of the Connecticut River has resulted in a new spectacular guide to the lower River's coves and marshes. **Tidewaters of the Connecticut River, An Explorer's Guide to Hidden Coves and Marshes** highlights the startling beauty of the lower Connecticut River coves and marshes in 124 full-color pages. Also a practical guide, **Tidewaters** provides canoe and kayak access points to each of the book's 11 destinations, complemented by a full account of the natural history of the region and the historical relevance of each site. **Tidewaters** may be ordered (for \$17.95 plus \$5 for P&H) from (and proceeds from its sale benefit) the Connecticut River Watershed Council, 15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301, (413) 772-2020, (413) 772-2090 (fax), <www.ctriver.org>.

The long-awaited **Handbook of Water Use and Conservation**, by Amherst, MA-based water efficiency expert Amy Vickers, is finally in print. This authoritative work presents 464 pages of solutions on how to trim wasteful water usage. Vickers asserts that "system-wide reductions of at least 25% from conservation may be a reasonable goal for many North American water utilities." No one is spared from Vickers' water-conserving plan: she finds serious water savings for the smallest lawn to the largest farm, from urban zoos to industrial cooling towers. The handbook describes technologies and practices to conserve water in homes, businesses, industries and farms. Information presented is clear, well-organized and thorough. The book offers 10 key steps to a successful water conservation program, describes how to conduct water audits, gives data on the water and energy savings and costs of the measures described, provides case studies of good examples to follow and much more. With this book, any excuses for wasteful water usage go down the drain. The **Handbook** is available for \$99.95 from its publisher, WaterPlow Press, at <<http://www.waterplowpress.com>> or by calling 1-866-367-3300 (toll-free).

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best management practices for these facilities. DEP will also provide these maps in printed form to local officials.

The DEP Drinking Water program wants broad public input as it implements SWAP throughout the Commonwealth to meet the 2003 deadline for completing SWAP reports for all public water supplies. Specifically, watershed associations, Stream Teams, anglers, paddlers and others with knowledge of local water resources and/or land uses affecting public water supplies are encouraged to work with their local water departments in reviewing draft SWAP maps for accuracy as well as helping to develop and implement source water protection recommendations in the SWAP reports. This input is especially important if you or others know of or suspect contamination threats that DEP and/or local officials may not know about.

For more information on or to get involved with the Source Water Assessment Program, please contact Ken Pelletier, SWAP Coordinator, [(617) 348-4014, (617) 292-5696 (fax), <kenneth.pelletier@state.ma.us>] or, better yet, one of the four regional SWAP coordinators: for DEP's Western Region (covering the Hudson, Housatonic, Deerfield, Westfield, Farmington, Connecticut, and portions of the Millers, Chicopee and Quinebaug watersheds): Catherine Skiba [(413) 755-2119, (413) 784-1149 (fax), <catherine.skiba@state.ma.us>]; for DEP's Central Region (covering the Blackstone, Nashua, French and portions of the Millers, Chicopee and Quinebaug watersheds): Josephine Yemoh-Ndi [(508) 849-4030, (508) 792-7621 (fax), <josephine.yemohndi@state.ma.us>]; for DEP's Southeast Region (covering Cape Cod, Islands, Buzzards Bay, Ten Mile, Mt. Hope and Narragansett Bays, Taunton and South Coastal watersheds): Mark Dakers [(508)-946-2847, (508) 947-6557 (fax), <mark.dakers@state.ma.us>]; and for DEP's Northeast Region (covering the Parker, Merrimack, SuAsCo, Shawsheen, Ipswich, Weymouth/Weir, Mystic, Neponset, Charles and North Coastal watersheds): Anita Wolovick, [(978) 661-7768, (978) 661-7615 (fax), <anita.wolovick@state.ma.us>]. You may also want to look at the SWAP section of DEP's website (<<http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/dwspubs.htm#swap>>), which provides a recent status report on the program as a whole as well as in your community and watershed.

Last but not least, you may want to consider attending a workshop entitled "Where to Go Next After Receiving Your SWAP Assessment", scheduled for Tuesday November 13th at the MDC field office in West Bolyston (more information available at DEP's SWAP page listed above).



Our Mission

The Mission of the Riverways Programs is to promote the restoration and protection of the ecological integrity of the Commonwealth's rivers and adjacent lands. Recognizing the uniquely important role of rivers in the state's ecology, the Department initiated the Riverways Programs in 1987.

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Important Notice to Riverways Newsletter Readers:

As part of Governor Jane Swift’s **Managing for Results Initiative** (MRI), whereby all state agencies and programs have been asked to look for ways to reduce costs and increase the efficiency of their activities, Riverways is looking for ways to reduce our printing and mailing costs. If you are willing to forego a printed copy of the Riverways newsletter, we would be glad to send you a timely e-mail message indicating when forthcoming issues are posted on Riverways’ web page. If so, please send an e-mail message to that effect to <rachel.calabro@state.ma.us>. You can also let Rachel know if you’d rather be removed from our mailing list entirely. In addition, offices receiving multiple copies of the newsletter in the past may now receive only one or two in the future; we hope you will share these with interested colleagues. Thanks for your cooperation in helping to make state government more efficient and cost-effective.

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